

## Cluster Area CV: Early Childhood Transition (CBT)

**Question:** Do all children exiting Part C receive the transition planning necessary to support the child's transition to preschool and other appropriate community services by their third birthday?

**State Goals:** (for reporting period July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004)

- The positive reasons for exiting First Steps will increase and the negative reasons will decrease.
- The performance of children who receive early intervention and special education services prior to age 5 will increase on the school entry profile.

**Performance Indicator:** (for reporting period July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004)

- All children exiting Part C receive the transition planning necessary to support the child's transition to preschool and other appropriate community services by their third birthday.

### 1. Baseline/Trend Data and Analysis (for reporting period July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004):

#### Reasons for inactivations during 2003-04 of children under 3 years of age who had an IFSP

Exit Reason	Number	Percent
Transition to Part B	1,115	59.2%
Eligible for Part B	91	4.8%
Completion of IFSP	129	6.8%
Part B Ineligible, Exit with No Referral	81	4.3%
Part B Ineligible, Exit to Other Programs	71	3.8%
Part B Referral Refused by Parent/Guardian	72	3.8%
Child Deceased	17	0.9%
Moved out of State	97	5.1%
Unable to contact/locate	107	5.7%
Withdrawn by parent/guardian	105	5.6%
Total	1,885	100.0%

Exit data for years prior to 2003-04 are not provided due to questions about the validity of the data. Data for 2003-04 show that the majority of children exit to Part B programs which is expected due to the restrictive nature of Missouri's eligibility criteria. When exit data is limited to children exiting near the third birthday, the percent going on to ECSE is over 75%

**Part B Referrals from First Steps (Part C)**

	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
Number of referrals from First Steps	1,210	1,632	1,856	2,128	2,197
Of those, the number of children that were ECSE eligible	1,001	1,315	1,492	1,746	1,745
% of referrals that were ECSE eligible	82.7%	80.6%	80.4%	82.0%	79.4%

Source: ECSE Web Application

Part C referrals to Part B have been increasing over the past five years, while a consistent 80 percent of referrals are found eligible. This would suggest that the service coordinators are aware of their responsibilities in terms of transition.

**From Monthly First Steps Family Exit Survey (initiated in August 2004)**

Transition Q1: My service coordinator informed our family about the transition process and options available for our child.

	#	%	
Strongly Agree	135	51.14%	90.91%
Agree	105	39.77%	
Disagree	13	4.92%	9.09%
Strongly Disagree	11	4.17%	
Total	264		

Transition Q2: The information provided helped me understand the transition process.

	#	%	
Strongly Agree	113	43.13%	89.31%
Agree	121	46.18%	
Disagree	19	7.20%	10.64%
Strongly Disagree	9	3.44%	
Total	262		

Transition Q3: A transition meeting was held six months prior to my child's third birthday so a smooth and effective transition occurred at age three.

	#	%	
Strongly Agree	96	42.11%	86.85%
Agree	102	44.74%	
Disagree	16	7.02%	13.16%
Strongly Disagree	14	6.14%	
Total	228		

Survey data show that over 85% of families reported that a transition meeting was held six months prior to the child's third birthday. Approximately 90% of families agreed that information on the transition process was shared and that it helped them understand the process.

**Monitoring Data of SPOEs on Transition for Late Referrals**

This area has been identified as a systemic issue and is being addressed through corrective action plans. If not corrected in a timely manner, sanctions will be imposed.

**Child Complaints**

One child complaint allegation was found out of compliance in regard to following proper transition procedures. The corrective action was completed as ordered by DESE.

**Future Plans for Data Collection**

- Informal issues data collection will inform if there are issues with particular service coordinators or providers in the transition area
- webSPOE system will provide transition meeting/planning data
- LEA surveys will provide data on transition planning from the school district perspective
- IFSP Quality Indicators have a rating section for transition planning

**2. Targets (for reporting period July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004):**

- All infants and toddlers will have smooth and timely transitions from Part C.

**3. Explanation of Progress or Slippage (for reporting period July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004):**

DESE's plan for collecting transition planning data and correction of noncompliance includes the following:

- Family Exit survey – Data collection began in August 2004 and continues on a monthly basis. Surveys are sent to families who exited the program six months earlier. Family exit survey data will provide additional information on the transition process and programs into which the children transitioned. Data will be used to target specific SPOEs for additional follow-up.
- webSPOE - The new software will provide detailed information on when transition meetings are held as well as who participated. The software will also include reports/notifications of impending deadlines, including timelines for transition meetings, and will require certain actions to be taken by service coordinators, including appropriate transition activities. Data will be used to target specific service coordinators for additional follow-up. The webSPOE software is expected to be implemented in Summer 2005.
- LEA surveys – Surveys will provide information on the transition process from the school district perspective. This will alert DESE to potential problems from specific SPOEs or service coordinators.
- IFSP Quality Indicators – The indicators contain a rating scale for the quality of transition plans. Data will be used to target specific SPOEs and service coordinators for additional follow-up.
- Monitoring of SPOEs and service coordinators – will incorporate all of the above data as it becomes available. Monitoring of service coordinators beginning in February 2005 will look at transition. Any identified noncompliance will require a corrective action and, if not corrected, will cause sanctions to be imposed.

DESE will use SIG funds to bring together a workgroup of stakeholders in the Part C and 619 systems to revise and expand the Part C Transition training, so that it better encompasses and addresses children's transition from Part C services to 619 or community-based services. This training will be placed online and made available for parents, community-based service personnel (child care centers, preschools), and school staff (ECSE, Title I and PAT personnel).

**4. Projected Targets:**

- All infants and toddlers will have smooth and timely transitions from Part C.
- Additional projected targets are in the Future Activities tables.

**5 & 6. Future Activities to Achieve Projected Targets/Results and Projected Timelines and Resources:**

See also GS.I

<b>New Cluster/ Probe</b>	<b>Future Activities to Achieve Projected Targets (5)</b>	<b>Projected Targets/ Evidence of Change (4)</b>	<b>Projected Timelines (6)</b>	<b>Resources (6)</b>
GS.I GS.II CBT	Monitor data reports on C to B transition	Timely transitions to Part B	Ongoing	DSE Staff
CBT	Incorporate transition rules and reports into webSPOE software	Timely transition conferences	2004-05	Comp, Data
CBT	Update and make available the Transition module	Timely transition	2004-05	EP, Comp
CE.I CBT	Schedule regular meetings with First Steps and ECSE coalition	Transition from C to B facilitated by communication	Ongoing	DSE Staff